



**Wallace W. Edgerton**  
Mayor

**Fred Twyman**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**John V. Denver**  
Councilmember

**Darcy Kuenzi**  
Councilmember

**Scott A. Mann**  
Councilmember

December 14, 2009

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program  
c/o The Department of Conservation  
Office of Sustainability  
801 K Street, MS 24 -01  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

RECEIVED  
DEC 15 2009  
Director's Office  
Department of Conservation

**Re: Planning Grants under Proposition 84**

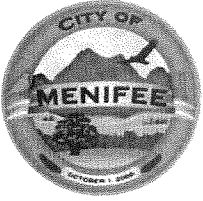
Dear Grant Staff and the Strategic Growth Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program. The City of Menifee, City of Perris, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Perris Union High School, and Homeland/Romoland ADP, Inc strongly support grants and incentives for planning and development of sustainable communities.

The long-term planning process to refine and implement the Homeland/Romoland Watershed Master Drainage Plan (MDP) will change the trajectory of a large area of Southern California. The planning process ultimately will provide flood protection for seventeen square miles of Riverside County, and will remove 500,000 tons of silt and debris from impaired water bodies and increase groundwater recharge capabilities, as well as offering substantial social and economic benefits.

Implementation of MDP will result in a total of 27,000 jobs, including 600 construction jobs immediately, more than 9000 permanent employment opportunities, and 18,000 construction jobs over 10 years, along with a variety of housing options for families of all income levels. The MDP will provide these employment opportunities to an area suffering from unemployment rates among the highest in the state.

The Homeland/Romoland Watershed Master Drainage Plan will facilitate jobs in an area that will decrease commute distances. The plan will improve the jobs/housing balance in the County, resulting in a reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Transportation and air quality model runs by the Southern California Association of Governments project a 30% reduction in expected commuting distances under the Homeland/Romoland MDP, which will help Southern California achieve the sustainable community targets under SB 375 and the GHG reduction goals under AB 32.



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The result of the planning process will provide a model suburban application of sustainable community elements, including:

- integrating community green spaces,
- improving water quality and water conservation,
- implementing multiple benefit stormwater collection infrastructure,
- protecting and fully integrating public transportation,
- connecting pedestrian and non-motorized paths, and
- significantly reducing per capita VMT and achieving associated emission benefits.

The City of Menifee, City of Perris, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Perris Union High School, and Homeland/Romoland ADP, Inc recommend that the Strategic Growth Council and Staff increase or eliminate the cap of \$1,000,000 to allow the flexibility to invest in large-scale, multi jurisdictional planning processes that offer exceptional potential to leverage state investments to achieve multiple benefits.

We look forward to working with the Strategic Growth Council and Staff. Investment of Proposition 84 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program can help transform a large, depressed floodplain into a vibrant watershed that can serve as a model suburban sustainable community.

Very Truly Yours,

Scott A. Mann

City Councilman, City of Menifee

Chairman, City of Menifee Finance Committee